

Rochester Energy Commission

June 10th, 2020

Welcome Back!

Agenda

- Old Business
 - EarthFest
 - Benchmarking Program
 - Web page edits
- New Business
 - RPT Park & Ride Letter, review and vote
 - District Energy Study (DES)
 - Air Quality Project
 - Green Team
 - Sustainability & Resiliency Taskforce
- Priorities – Actions and Strategies Discussion
 - Budget- update GHG numbers, revisit goals in EAP based on latest science
 - Quick review – what we've done, what's outstanding
 - 2020 Priorities - Actions and Strategies

Old Business

- EarthFest
- Benchmarking Program Updates
- Webpage Edits
 - 2019 EAP Priorities (need document?)
 - 2020 EAP Priorities (need document?)
 - Meet the Energy Commission (needs updating)
 - Watt Does It Take to Power Rochester? (needs updating)
 - REC Education Brochure (needs updating)
 - Emails

New Business

- RPT 75th St. Park&Ride, Letter of Support
- District Energy Study
- Air Quality Project

April 28, 2020

Ms. K. Jane Williams
Acting Administrator
Federal Transit Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590
United States

RE: City of Rochester's 75th Street Park & Ride Project

Dear Ms. Williams,

I write on behalf of the Rochester Energy Commission to express their strong support for the City of Rochester's application for Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Bus and Bus Facilities Program grant funds to support the construction of the 75th Street Park & Ride. The project will reduce downtown traffic congestion, ease overfilling of existing Park & Rides, and decrease worksite parking demand.

The Energy Commission was created in 2009 to hold a leadership role in the development of the City's sustainable energy future. The Energy Commission implements the City's adopted Energy Action Plan (EAP), prioritizing actions that reduce energy use and GHG emissions to meet the City's reduction targets. The Energy Commission supports Rochester's 75th Street Park & Ride Project because the project aligns with several of their transportation priorities, including increased public transit and decreased vehicle miles traveled. This project supports local mode shift goals to increase the percentage of transit usage to 30 percent as the downtown workforce grows, reducing GHG emissions from single occupancy vehicle trips.

The Energy Commission is ready to engage in the City of Rochester's 75th Street Park & Ride project and commits to assisting with public outreach efforts to inform the public of progress and solicit input as well as working with local businesses to promote use of the Park & Ride.

Please give the City of Rochester's application your highest consideration.

Sincerely,



Lauren Jensen
Sustainability Coordinator, City of Rochester
On behalf of the Rochester Energy Commission

EAP Priorities

- **2021 Budget & Quick Review**
- **2020 Priorities – 3 given, 7 voted on**
 - **Given Priorities**
 - Communications Strategy
 - Revisit EAP goals
 - Generation Portfolio, GHG emissions
 - **Voted Priorities - Actions and Strategies**
 - Power Generation and Supply, Community Education
 - Power Generation and Supply, Expansion of Behind the Meter Generation
 - Buildings, Sustainable Building Policies
 - Buildings, Retro-commissioning
 - Transportation, Develop transportation corridors, nodes and parking to minimize VMT
 - Transportation, Electric charging/solar stations
 - Transportation, Increased public transit to reduce single occupancy trips

Budget & Quick Review

2021 Budget

- Budgets will likely remain flat for 2021 due to COVID-19
- In relation to EAP priorities do we...
 - Update GHG numbers – looking to pull this together ourselves to save some funding
 - Revisit and update EAP goals
 - Education and Communication Strategy
- What do Commissioners anticipate for spending? How is 2020 budget looking?

Quick Review

January

- Discussed EC objectives, goals, By-Laws, GHG emission, revise and enact policies, development and implementation of strategies
- Approved Final Draft Resolution for Advanced Commercial Building Efficiency Resolution

February

- Discussed RPU's renewable plan, approved Letter of support on plan to Mayor, City Council and RPU
- Discussed 2020 scope of work

March

- Olmsted County Waste Presentation
- EAP Priority Vote

EAP Priorities

Given Priorities

- **Community Education:**
 - Determine best methods for communications and outreach
 - Determine best plan for delivering communications, materials, education, etc.
 - Website updates and organization
- **EAP:**
 - Review the goals within the EAP
 - Determine if they are still relevant
 - Do any need to be updated or removed?
- **Generation Portfolio:**
 - Create the baseline inventory for energy use and GHG emissions
 - Determine the City's operational GHG emissions and savings

Actions & Strategies

Community Education

- Work with community-based organizations to expand knowledge of, access to and better evaluations of existing energy efficiency programs
- Identify specific barriers to participation among low income populations, including through existing and/or future participation studies
- Employ community members to engage with their communities about existing programs such as incentives
- Expand energy efficiency, energy access, clean energy and electrification programs to better serve low-income communities renters and other underserved populations
- Implement energy and water conservation education campaigns
- Residential Property-Assessed Clean Energy (R-PACE)

EAP Priorities

Voted on Priorities for 2020: Power Generation & Supply

- **Increase Conservation**
 - **Community Education:** As the City of Rochester (presently) has limited control over the emissions footprint associated with the portfolio of purchased power, the best approach for the City to realize emissions reductions is by reducing the demand. The City can offer tips and incentivize the public to increase conservation and reduce consumption.
- **Increase Behind the Meter Generation**
 - **Expansion of Behind the Meter Generation:** In 2030 when the SMMPA contract expires, RPU's obligation to purchase power at a contracted rate will expire. The expiration of this contract provision provides City agencies like the WRP flexibility to generate more of their own low-carbon power and directly account for carbon reductions. In addition, RPU will have new flexibility to incentivize more aggressive development of "behind the meter" power generation, such as roof-top and community solar, without being constrained by contractual power purchase obligations.

Actions & Strategies

Increased Behind the Meter Generation

- Complete a citywide Community Choice Aggregation Feasibility Study, which would include timelines for implementation and analyze potential costs
- Assess potential for solar at City facilities
- Develop and enforce specific standards requiring that new commercial and industrial buildings accommodate solar and battery installation
- Investigate development of distributed energy/microgrid of local community solar projects on city land
- Explore funding/capital opportunities, such as 0% interest loans for community organizations and individuals to directly and democratically own clean energy assets

EAP Priorities

Voted on Priorities for 2020: Buildings

- **Sustainable Building Policies & Plans**
 - **Sustainable Building Policies:** The adoption of sustainable building policies that apply to planning, design, construction and commission of new and significant modification construction projects present a significant opportunity to mitigate GHG emissions.
- **Retro-commission**
 - **Retro-commission:** Retro-commission could be a cost-effective way for Rochester to reduce energy use and GHG emissions from City and community-owned buildings. Retro-fitting technologies include upgrading lighting systems to LED lights over conventional lightbulbs or heating upgrades.

Actions & Strategies

Sustainable Building Policies

- Pursue LEED for existing buildings
- Develop a Zero Net Energy Policy for new municipal-owned buildings
- Implement an Outdoor Landscaping Ordinance that requires use of weather-based irrigation controllers
- Evaluate, improve and update municipal code enforcement procedures
- Adopt/update municipal building benchmarking and energy audit policy
- Implement technologies and programs to reduce water loss and waste
- Implement city-wide weatherization program to reduce residential energy consumption and focus on reducing energy burden of low-income populations
- Explore mandatory emissions reductions for large building (ex. All buildings over 25,000 sq ft)

Actions & Strategies

Retro-commissioning

- Provide training and education resources on building optimization and available finance mechanisms, such as Property-Assessed Clean Energy (PACE), etc.
- Implement technologies and programs to reduce water loss and waste
- Conduct a municipal building electrification study to determine a plan for transitioning all City buildings of natural gas and oil and towards zero energy
- Continue efforts to improve building energy efficiency through lighting, HVAC, and building envelope/weatherization upgrades

EAP Priorities

Voted on Priorities for 2020: Transportation

- **Decrease Vehicle Miles Travelled**
 - **Develop transportation corridors, nodes and parking which minimize vehicle miles travelled (VMT):** The initial EAP did not do a detailed evaluation of this opportunity but the P2S process includes a detailed analysis of this significant impact, significant control opportunity to minimize VMT and GHG emissions from transportation.
- **Electric Charging**
 - **Electric Charging/Solar Stations:** Partnerships with electric providers, large fleet owners and other NGOs can support acceleration of electric vehicle charging infrastructure for large fleet owners and the general public to supply another transportation fuel option that is anticipated to deliver substantial emissions reductions. Currently the P2S effort does not include an evaluation of how electrification might be facilitated but the City could augment the P2S study with this evaluation and capitalize on a timely opportunity to do so in an optimal and cost-efficient manner.

Actions & Strategies

Develop transportation corridors, nodes and parking to minimize VMT

- Implement infrastructure improvements including “complete streets” to facilitate alternative transportation mode for all travel trips
- Implement transit-oriented development within Transit Priority Areas
- Implement pricing strategies for public parking

Actions & Strategies

Electric Charging/Solar Stations

- Pursue state, federal and local incentives for EV infrastructure
- Install EV charging stations at libraries, community centers, and other public-facing City buildings
- Adopt EV-ready building codes and streamline permitting for EV charging
- Publish and implement recommendations from City Green Fleet Study
- Adopt Green Fleet Procurement Policy
- After two years, evaluate the success of this investment and create a plan to expand the procurement strategy

EAP Priorities

Voted on Priorities for 2020: Transportation

- **Increase Public Transit**
 - **Increased Public Transit to Reduce Single Occupancy Trips:** There is a widely known shortage of parking in the City of Rochester, which is one way to encourage riders of public transit. Increasing the service options, bus routes, and hours of service could reduce single occupancy vehicle trips and reduce traffic congestion and GHG emissions. The current bus system is primarily designed to move Mayo employees, with limited operation hours and days. Addressing the needs of the broader and expanding community should be considered.

Actions & Strategies

Increased Public Transit to Reduce Single Occupancy Trips

- Provide real-time transit and traffic information
- Encourage employers to offer financial incentives for transit use and implement flex time
- Encourage employers to expand bicycle parking and offer showers
- Provide vulnerable populations with transit cost offsets
- Prepare a Commuter Report with measures to increase commuting by transit for City employees
- Achieve better transit-supportive densities by locating a majority of all new residential development within Transit Priority Areas
- Reevaluate transit routes
- Expand bike/scooter/car share programs

Next Meeting

July 8th, 2020

- **Discuss Future Agenda Items**